Topic: Algebra

Topic/Skill	Definition/Tips	Example
1. Expression	A mathematical statement written using **symbols**, **numbers** or **letters**,	3x + 2 or $5y^2$
2. Equation	A statement showing that **two expressions are equal**	2y – 17 = 15
3. Identity	An equation that is **true for all values** of the variables An identity uses the symbol: ≡	$2x \equiv x+x$
4. Formula	Shows the **relationship** between **two or more variables**	Area of a rectangle = length x width or A= LxW
5. Simplifying Expressions	**Collect 'like terms'.** Be careful with negatives. x^2 and x are not like terms.	$2x + 3y + 4x - 5y + 3 = 6x - 2y + 3$ $3x + 4 - x^2 + 2x - 1 = 5x - x^2 + 3$
6. x times x	The answer is x^2 not $2x$.	Squaring is multiplying by itself, not by 2.
7. $p \times p \times p$	The answer is p^3 not $3p$	If p=2, then p^3=2x2x2=8, not 2x3=6
8. $p + p + p$	The answer is 3p not p^3	If p=2, then 2+2+2=6, not $2^3 = 8$
9. Expand	To expand a bracket, **multiply** each term **in the bracket** by the expression **outside** the bracket.	$3(m + 7) = 3x + 21$
10. Factorise	The **reverse** of **expanding**. Factorising is writing an expression as a product of terms by '**taking out' a common factor**.	$6x - 15 = 3(2x - 5)$, where 3 is the common factor.